



## 1st trial in Capitol riot ends in conviction on all counts

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**  
and **COLLEEN LONG**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A Texas man was convicted on Tuesday of storming the U.S. Capitol with a holstered handgun, a milestone victory for federal prosecutors in the first trial among hundreds of cases arising from last year's riot. A jury also convicted Guy Wesley Reffitt of obstructing Congress' joint session to certify the Electoral College vote on Jan. 6, 2021, of interfering with police officers who were guarding the Capitol and of threatening his two teenage children if they reported him to law enforcement after the attack. Jurors deliberated

about three hours and convicted him on all counts. The verdict could be a bellwether for many other Capitol riot cases. It could give Justice Department prosecutors more leverage in plea negotiations and discourage other defendants from gambling on trials of their own. Reffitt, 49, of Wylie, Texas, didn't testify at his trial, which started last Wednesday. He showed little visible reaction to the verdict, but his face was covered by a mask. Outside court, his wife Nicole said the verdict was "against all American people. You're going to be convicted on your First Amendment rights."



This artist sketch depicts Guy Wesley Reffitt, joined by his lawyer William Welch, right, in Federal Court, in Washington, on Feb. 28, 2022.

Associated Press

All Americans should be wary. This fight has just begun."

She said her husband was being used as an example by the government. "You

are all in danger," she said.

Continued on Page 2

**HAPPY HOUR**

20% OFF All Mixed Drinks Every Day

5 PM - 7 PM

**KARAOKE CONTEST**

Hosted by Sally & Ally Every Friday

10 PM - 3 AM

**THE BULLDOG ARUBA**

Walk-Ins Are Always Welcome! However, If You're Looking To Sit A Table Reservation Are Recommended! +297 5637951

LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF PASEO HERENCIA MALL

**Free Karaoke Ticket**

Take this with you

**Workation?**

Get your **Prepaid Wireless Broadband** and stay connected everywhere in Aruba!!!

**SETAR**

**AQUA GRILL**

**FREE DESSERT**

Not valid with other promotions, coupons or vouchers. Valid with purchase of appetizer and entree. Each coupon is valid for one person per table.

SCAN ME

PLEASE CUT HERE

**ARUBA'S PREMIER SEAFOOD RESTAURANT**

Reservations + (297) 586-5900  
www.aqua-grill.com





## 1st trial in Capitol riot ends in conviction on all counts

Continued from Front

During the trial's closing arguments on Monday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Risa Berkower told jurors that Reffitt drove to Washington, D.C., intending to stop Congress from certifying President Joe Biden's electoral victory. Reffitt proudly "lit the fire" that allowed others in a mob to overwhelm Capitol police officers near the Senate doors, the prosecutor said.

Reffitt was not accused of entering the Capitol building. Defense attorney William Welch said there is no evidence that Reffitt damaged property, used force or physically harmed anybody.

The defense lawyer urged jurors to acquit Reffitt of all

charges but one: He said they should convict him of a misdemeanor charge that he entered and remained in a restricted area. Reffitt faced a total of five counts: obstruction of an official proceeding, being unlawfully present on Capitol grounds while armed with a firearm, transporting firearms during a civil disorder, interfering with law enforcement officers during a civil disorder, and obstruction of justice.

He will be sentenced June 8. He could receive 20 years in prison on the top charge alone, but he's likely to face far less time behind bars.

Other rioters have pleaded guilty; the longest sentence so far is five years and three months for Robert Palmer,

a Florida man who pleaded guilty to attacking police officers at the Capitol. The riot resulted in the deaths of five people, including a police officer. More than 100 officers were injured. Rioters caused over \$1 million in damage to the Capitol.

U.S. District Judge Dabney Friedrich presided over Reffitt's trial. Trump nominated her in 2017.

Welch has said Reffitt worked as a rig manager and as a consultant in the petroleum industry before COVID-19 restrictions effectively shut down his business.

Jurors saw videos that captured the confrontation between a few Capitol police officers and a mob of people, including Reffitt, who

approached them on the west side of the Capitol.

Reffitt was armed with a Smith & Wesson pistol in a holster on his waist, carrying zip-tie handcuffs and wearing body armor and a helmet equipped with a video camera when he advanced on police, according to prosecutors.

He retreated after an officer pepper sprayed him in the face, but he waved on other rioters who ultimately breached the building, prosecutors said.

Before the crowd advanced, Reffitt used a megaphone to shout at police to step aside and to urge the mob to push forward and overtake officers. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Nestler said Reffitt played a leadership role that day.

During last Friday's testimony, prosecutors zoomed in on a video image of Reffitt at the Capitol. FBI Special Agent Laird Hightower said the image shows "a silvery metallic linear object" in a holster protruding from under Reffitt's jacket as he leaned forward.

Shauni Kerkhoff, who was one of the Capitol police officers who tried to repel Reffitt, said she launched pepperballs that didn't stop him from advancing. She testified that Reffitt appeared to be leading the crowd up stairs toward police.

Reffitt's 19-year-old son, Jackson, testified last Thursday that his father threatened him and his sister, then 16, after he drove home from Washington. Reffitt told his children they would be traitors if they reported him to authorities and said "traitors get shot," Jackson Reffitt recalled.

He said the threat terrified him. His younger sister, Peyton, was listed as a pos-

sible government witness but didn't testify. She said that she would talk more later on her own time, but: "Kids should never be used against the parents."

Jackson Reffitt used a cell-phone app to secretly record his father boasting about his role in the riot. Jurors heard excerpts of that family conversation.

Jackson Reffitt initially contacted the FBI on Christmas Eve, less than two weeks before the riot, to report concerns about his father's behavior and increasingly worrisome rhetoric. But the FBI didn't respond until Jan. 6, after the riot erupted.

Another key witness, Rocky Hardie, said he and Reffitt were members of "Texas Three Percenters" militia group.

The Three Percenters militia movement refers to the myth that only 3% of Americans fought in the Revolutionary War against the British.

Hardie drove from Texas to Washington with Reffitt. He testified that both of them were armed with holstered handguns when they attended then-President Donald Trump's "Stop the Steal" rally before the riot erupted. Reffitt also took an AR-15 rifle to Washington but left it locked up in his car, Hardie said.

Hardie said Reffitt talked about dragging lawmakers out of the Capitol and replacing them with people who would "follow the Constitution." Hardie also said Reffitt gave him two pairs of zip-tie cuffs in case they needed to detain anybody.

Reffitt was arrested less than a week after the riot. The FBI found a handgun in a holster on a nightstand in the defendant's bedroom when they searched his home near Dallas. □

# COVID TESTING MADE EASY!

**At the Paseo Herencia Mall**

**LOCATION**  
Paseo Herencia Mall next to TGIF

**ANTIGEN**  
Approved for re-entry to the U.S.

**ANTIGEN \$35**  
Same day results

**PCR \$75**  
Next day results

**VERY gentle swabbers**

**JUST WALK IN!**  
No appointment needed.

**OPEN DAILY FROM 9AM - 9PM**



## AP sources: Biden to issue executive order on cryptocurrency

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN and AAMER MADHANI**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden is expected to sign an executive order on cryptocurrency this week that will mark the first step toward regulating how digital currency is traded.

The move comes as administration officials have raised concerns in recent weeks about Russia's use of cryptocurrency to evade the impact of crushing sanctions in response to its invasion of Ukraine. The sanctions have sent the ruble to historic lows and have closed the country's stock market.

Two people familiar with the process said the executive order on cryptocurrency was expected to be issued this week and it had been in the works long

before the war. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity to preview the order.

The order is expected to describe what government agencies, including the Treasury Department, need to do to develop policies and regulations on digital currencies. It is expected to include a request for the State Department to ensure that American cryptocurrency laws are aligned with those of U.S. allies and will ask the Financial Stability Oversight Council — which monitors the stability of the U.S. financial system — to study illicit finance concerns.

Additionally, the order will explore the possibility of a new central bank digital currency. The Federal Reserve issued a paper on the topic in January that explores the risks and ben-

efits of U.S.-backed digital currency.

Implicit in the order will be that cryptocurrency will remain a part of the U.S. economy for years to come. The White House's plans to move forward with the executive order were first reported by Bloomberg News.

While U.S. officials have played down the significance of cryptocurrency to Russia's ability to evade sanctions, it remains a concern.

"We will continue to look at how the sanctions work and evaluate whether or not there are liquid leakages and we have the possibility to address them. I often hear cryptocurrency mentioned and that is a channel to be watched,"



In this Feb. 9, 2021, photo, the Bitcoin logo appears on the display screen of a cryptocurrency ATM at the Smoker's Choice store in Salem, N.H.

Associated Press

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said last week.

A senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the president's national security team has already

been on the lookout for the use and creation of front companies and alternative financial institutions that Moscow might try to employ to get around sanctions. □

## WHO says COVID boosters needed, reversing previous call

**GENEVA (AP)** — An expert group convened by the World Health Organization said Tuesday it "strongly supports urgent and broad access" to booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine amid the global spread of omicron, capping a reversal of the U.N. agency's repeated insistence last year that boosters weren't necessary for healthy people and contributed to vaccine inequity.

In a statement, WHO said its expert group concluded that immunization with authorized COVID-19 vaccines provide high levels of protection against severe disease and death amid the continuing spread of the hugely contagious omicron variant. WHO eased back on its earlier position in January by saying boosters were recommended once countries had adequate supplies and after protecting their most vulnerable.

It said vaccination, including the use of boosters, was especially important for people at risk of severe disease.

Last year, WHO's director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called for a moratorium on booster doses while dozens of countries embarked on administering the doses, saying rich countries should immediately donate those vaccines to poor countries instead. WHO scientists said at the time they would continue to evaluate incoming data.

The updated recommendations came from an 18-member advisory group that focuses on the impact of "variants of concern" — the most worrying variants, like omicron — and assesses the vaccines' effectiveness against them.

Numerous scientific studies have proven that booster doses of authorized vaccines help restore waning immunity and protect against serious COVID-19. Booster programs in rich countries including Britain, Canada and the U.S. have been credited with preventing the surge in omicron infections from spilling over into hospitals and cemeteries. □



Your first choice for locally caught fish and seafood on the island.  
Very reasonably priced, exciting menu and no service charge added to your bill.



We are open from Monday - Saturday from 5.30pm - 10pm.  
No reservation required! We operate on a first come first serve system.

Located within walking distance from the High Rise hotels at Palm Beach #33.  
For more information call +297-586.7333



## 6 teens arrested in Iowa school shooting that killed 1

By **MARGERY A. BECK and SCOTT McFETRIDGE**  
**Associated Press**

**DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) —**

Authorities arrested six teenagers accused of shooting into a group that had gathered outside an Iowa high school, killing a 15-year-old boy and seriously wounding two teenage girls, police said Tuesday.

The suspects are each charged with first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder in the Monday afternoon shooting on the grounds of East High School, near Des Moines' downtown, about a half-mile (0.8 kilometers) from the Capitol. Police said gunshots fired outside the school came from several shooters from multiple vehicles.

Police named the suspects as Octavio Lopez, 17; Henry Valladares-Amaya, 17; Manuel Buezo, 16; Romero Perdomo, 16; Alex Perdomo, 15; and Nyang Chamdual, 14. All are from Des Moines and the school district didn't identify any as attending East.

Police identified the 15-year-old killed as Jose David Lopez, of Des Moines. Lopez, who was not a student at the school, was the intended target of the drive-by shooting, police said. The other two shot are females, 16 and 18, who both attend East and were



**Police investigate a shooting outside of East High School in in Des Moines, Iowa, on Monday, March 7, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

among a group standing with Lopez when they were inadvertently shot, police said. Police had not released the surviving victims' names by Tuesday afternoon.

Police said the 16-year-old girl remained hospitalized Tuesday in serious condition, while the 18-year-old remained hospitalized in critical condition.

"While this incident occurred outside of a school, it could have occurred in any one of our neighborhoods," police said. "The school is where the suspects found their target."

Police said search warrants were conducted at five Des Moines homes and six vehicles in the hours after the shooting. Investigators seized six guns during those searches, police said.

According to court documents, neighborhood camera footage captured the shooting. It showed a group of five teens gathered near a curb when three vehicles passed by and then returned, with people inside firing multiple shots at the group.

Surveillance footage also showed vehicles matching the description from the

shooting site departing another site and then returning soon after the shooting. The footage showed individuals that took part in the shooting, according to court documents.

Investigators recovered about 20 spent shell casings at the shooting site and found another 15 in the vehicles that police said were used in the shooting.

On the day of the shooting, calls started pouring in around 2:50 p.m. Monday, shortly before classes were scheduled to dismiss for the day, police spokesman, Sgt. Paul Parizek said.

The district said in a news release that the school was immediately put into lockdown and students were kept inside while police investigated. They were dismissed around 3:30 p.m. after law enforcement gave an all clear.

Principal Jill Versteeg described what happened as "everyone's worst nightmare" and urged parents to "hug your students and love them."

Officials had already suspended classes district-wide Tuesday so juniors could take the ACT college admissions test. The ACT exams and parent-teacher conferences were canceled Tuesday at East High School. The district also was making grief counselors available.

Superintendent Thomas Ahart said school shootings have "become too common" and said that "real change to gun laws and access would go a long way to help us."

"Our staff and students," he said, "are forced to train for these incidents and the trauma associated with the repeated drills and incidents will remain with them for years to come. It's unfortunate that our state and our country have become a place where firearms are far too easily accessible." A motive was not immediately known. □



**Shirley Ronquillo, a Houston area community activist, points to an open drainage ditch that is blocked by debris and trash May 27, 2021, in Houston.**

**Associated Press**

**HOUSTON (AP) —** Texas' administration of flood relief money from Hurricane

Harvey broke federal law by discriminating against Black and Hispanic resi-

## HUD says Texas agency discriminated in flood relief funding

dents in the Houston area, according to a decision by the federal housing agency that could channel millions of dollars of aid to communities battered by the 2017 storm.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development found that the Texas General Land Office's distribution process for more than \$2 billion in flood mitigation funds "caused there to be disproportionately less funding available to benefit minority residents than was available to benefit White residents."

The state agency drew

bipartisan outrage from officials and residents in the nation's fourth-largest city last year when it announced that Houston and Harris County would be getting only a small portion of the money Texas was awarding as part of an initial distribution of federal funding, despite the area having suffered the brunt of Harvey's estimated \$125 billion in damage.

In a Friday letter, HUD warned Land Commissioner George P. Bush that if his office does not voluntarily comply with federal law it may "initiate administra-

tive proceedings" or refer the matter to the U.S. Justice Department. The letter was released Tuesday by a housing advocacy group that filed a complaint against the state agency last year.

Spokesperson Brittany Eck said Tuesday that the Texas General Land Office is considering litigation against HUD and accused the federal agency of "politicizing" flood mitigation efforts. Bush, a Republican grandson of former President George H.W. Bush, is running for Texas attorney general. □



# EU pledges to fight Russia's "information war" in Europe

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — European Union officials on Tuesday defended the 27-nation bloc's decision to ban Russian state-controlled media outlets from broadcasting in the region as decisive steps to check a Kremlin-led "information war."

Speaking at the European Parliament during a debate on foreign interference and disinformation, the EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell brushed off critics who say the EU is threatening freedom of information with the ban on Sputnik and RT/Russia Today.

"They are not independent media, they are assets, they are weapons, in the Kremlin's manipulation ecosystem," Borrell told lawmakers. "We are not trying to decide what is true and what is false. We don't have ministers of the Truth. But we have to focus on foreign actors who intentionally, in a coordinated manner, try to manipulate our information environment."

The EU has decided to suspend the broadcasting activities of Sputnik and RT/Russia Today in the bloc until Russia ends its war in Ukraine and stop disinformation campaigns in member states.



Russia's President Vladimir Putin appears on a television screen at the stock market in Frankfurt, Germany, Feb. 25, 2022.

Borrell said Moscow-controlled outlets are part of a well-oiled propaganda machine providing biased news about Vladimir Putin's true intentions.

"If the information is bad, democracy is bad," he said, adding that information should be a protected good. "If the information is systematically contaminated by lies and twisted, citizens can't have a clear understanding of reality and their political judgment is

similarly twisted."

Borrell insisted that Sputnik was created by a presidential decree with the aim of reporting on Russia's state policies abroad, and said that Russia Today is capable of conducting an "information war" against the western world.

Borrell said he will soon propose a new mechanism that will allow the EU to sanction disinformation actors. Lawmakers from the special committee on for-

ign interference and disinformation are also proposing to establish a sanctions regime to deal with foreign meddling.

MEP Sandra Kalniete, the author of the report, said it's crucial for the EU to counter foreign threats in a bid to prevent third countries damaging democracies.

"Let's call a spade a spade. Russia, China and other authoritarian regimes have funneled more than \$300 million into 33 countries to

interfere in democratic processes," she said. "Putin's propaganda machinery wasn't just switched on on 24 February. It has already been working in Europe for decades, attempting to poison and divide our societies."

Kalniete said online platforms and tech companies need to suspend all social accounts engaged in "denying, glorifying and justifying Putin's aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity."

She also proposed to reinforce content in Russian and Ukrainian to resist the pressure from Russia's disinformation.

"In short, any tech platform giving space to Putin's propaganda or complying with his censorship request is an accomplice to Putin's aggression," she said.

European Commission Vera Jourova said Putin wants his people to be "apathetic" and praised streaming platform Netflix's decision to suspend its Russian services.

"Because president Putin wants the people to be entertained, not to pay attention to what is happening," she said. "It would not be right to see Russians being entertained, and next door Ukrainians being killed." □

Associated Press

# EU to harmonize criminalization of rape across the bloc

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — The European Union's executive arm unveiled plans Tuesday to harmonize the criminalization of rape across the 27-nation bloc on the strict basis of lack of consent. The plans also include the criminalization of female genital mutilation and cyber violence.

The large majority of EU member countries already treat violence against women and girls as a crime but the commission said there are gaps in national legislation. For instance, while rape is criminalized across the bloc, 18 members still require the use of force or threats to mete out

punishment.

The proposed directive unveiled by the European Commission on International Women's Day also lays out targeted support from member countries to specific groups including women fleeing armed conflict. That topic has gained further prominence since Russia started its invasion of non-EU member Ukraine last month.

The war has led hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian women and children to flee their country, exposing themselves to a high risk of exploitation by human traffickers.

Helena Dalli, the EU Commissioner for Equality, said

rape is being used "as a weapon of war" in Ukraine. According to EU data, one in three women in the EU has experienced physical or sexual violence since the age of 15, although that proportion differs widely depending on the country. In addition, one in two have experienced sexual harassment, with one in 20 women reporting having been raped.

The commission proposed to introduce a "minimum maximum sentence" of eight years in prison for rape, and five years for female genital mutilation, with member countries entitled to impose higher maximum sentences. □



European Commissioner for Europe fit for the Digital Age Margrethe Vestager wears an outfit under the colours of Ukraine and carries a bag celebrating the International Women's Day during a meeting with European Commission Commissioners, Tuesday, March 8, 2022 in Strasbourg, eastern France.

Associated Press



# Satellite images show activity at North Korean nuclear site

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG and JON GAMBRELL**  
Associated Press  
**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**

— Commercial satellite images suggest a resumption of construction activity at North Korea's nuclear testing ground nearly four years after leader Kim Jong Un declared the site's closure and invited foreign journalists to observe the destruction of tunnels ahead of his first summit with then-U.S. President Donald Trump.

Analysts say it's unclear how long it would take North Korea to restore the site for nuclear detonations if it intends to do so. The site in Punggye-ri in the country's northeast was used for its sixth and last nuclear test in 2017.

The sighting of construction activity at the site comes amid a deepening diplomatic freeze since the collapse of the second Kim-Trump meeting in February 2019, when the Americans rejected North Korean demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

North Korea has used the pause in talks to further expand its military capabilities, including nine rounds of missile launches in 2022 alone. The unusually fast pace indicates an intent to pressure the Biden administration, which has offered open-ended talks but shown no willingness to concede on sanctions.

Kim presided over a ruling Workers' Party meeting in January where Politburo members denounced what they described as U.S. hostility and issued a veiled threat to resume tests of nuclear explosives and long-range missiles that Kim unilaterally suspended in 2018 to create diplomatic space with Trump.

Some experts say Kim is reviving an old playbook of brinkmanship to extract concessions from Washington and his neighbors as he grapples with a decaying economy crippled by the pandemic, mismanagement and persisting U.S.-led sanctions.

The new construction at

Punggye-ri was first reported in an analysis of satellite images from Maxar Technologies by Jeffrey Lewis

and Dave Schmerler at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies. Satellite photos from Planet Labs PBC analyzed Tuesday by The Associated Press showed two new structures appeared to have been built to the site's south between February and early March. Those images were taken on March 6, two days after the Maxar images used by Lewis and Schmerler.



**South Korean Navy's patrol ships search for survivors from the sunken South Korean navy ship near South Korea's Baekryeong island, March 29, 2010.**

Associated Press

and Dave Schmerler at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies. Satellite photos from Planet Labs PBC analyzed Tuesday by The Associated Press showed two new structures appeared to have been built to the site's south between February and early March. Those images were taken on March 6, two days after the Maxar images used by Lewis and Schmerler.

Satellite photos from Planet Labs PBC analyzed Tuesday by The Associated Press showed two new structures appeared to have been built to the site's south between February and early March. Those images were taken on March 6, two days after the Maxar images used by Lewis and Schmerler.

The analysts said the construction work was the first activity they saw at the site since May 2018, when North Korea invited a group of foreign journalists to observe the destruction of tunnels at the site. North Korea then didn't invite outside experts capable of certifying what had been destroyed.

"We see very early signs of activity at the new site, including construction of a new building, repair of an-

other building, and what is possibly some lumber and sawdust," Lewis and Schmerler wrote. "North Korea uses a substantial amount of wood at the site both for buildings and shoring up tunnels. These changes have occurred only in the past few days."

This indicates North Korea has made a decision about the status of the site and possibly plans to bring it back to a state of readiness to resume nuclear testing, the analysts said.

"The test site is many months, if not years, from being ready for North Korea to conduct nuclear explosions there," they wrote.

"How long it would take North Korea to resume explosive testing at the site depends on the extent of the damage to the tunnels themselves, something we do not know with confidence. It is also possible that North Korea will resume nuclear testing at another location."

Some South Korean analysts have said North Korea could possibly resume nuclear tests in the coming

months to move the needle with the Biden administration, which has been preoccupied with Russia's es-

calating invasion of Ukraine and a regional confrontation with China.

The U.S. intelligence community's annual threat assessment, published Tuesday, also warned that there could be a new nuclear test by North Korea this year.

"In January, North Korea began laying the groundwork for an increase in tensions that could include (intercontinental ballistic missile) or possibly a nuclear test this year — actions that Pyongyang has not taken since 2017," the assessment said.

The weapons North Korea flight-tested this year include a purported hypersonic missile designed to evade regional missile defense systems.

Some experts say North Korea may use another nuclear test to claim it has acquired an ability to produce a nuclear warhead small enough to fit on that missile.

Following North Korea's latest launch on Saturday, which it claimed was related to technologies for a spy satellite it is developing, South Korea's presidential office revealed that Seoul is closely monitoring the Punggye-ri site along with other North Korean nuclear and missile facilities.

Meanwhile, South Korea's military said it fired warning shots at a North Korean patrol boat that temporarily crossed the countries' disputed western sea boundary while chasing an unarmed North Korean vessel. The North Korean patrol boat crossed the so-called Northern Limit Line on Tuesday morning while pursuing the vessel in waters near South Korea's Baekryeong island and retreated after a South Korean naval ship fired warning shots.

South Korean military officials seized the North Korean vessel being chased by the patrol boat and were questioning its seven crewmembers.

South Korea's navy has often fired warning shots to repel North Korean vessels crossing the countries' poorly marked sea border, but there also have been some deadly clashes over the years. South Korea blamed North Korea for an attack on a South Korean warship that killed 46 sailors in 2010, but the North has denied responsibility.

South Korea has patrolled waters around the Northern Limit Line for decades after it was drawn up by the U.N. command at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. North Korea does not recognize the line and insists upon a boundary that encroaches deeply into waters currently controlled by the South.

The incident came a day before South Koreans vote in a highly contested presidential election. The bitter campaign has been marked by clashes between major candidates over whether South Korea should continue pursuing engagement with North Korea or take a harder line to check its nuclear threat. □



# Maduro signals interest in better Venezuela, U.S. relations

By REGINA GARCIA CANO  
and JOSHUA GOODMAN  
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuela President Nicolás Maduro signaled an interest in improving relations with the U.S. following weekend talks with high-level American officials prompted in part by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and concerns of rising gas prices in the U.S.

Maduro, in a televised meeting with cabinet members late Monday, did not provide details of the discussions. Neither did a White House spokeswoman earlier. But he seemed to indicate he was willing to accede to U.S. demands that he resume negotiations with his opponents as a first building block for any relief from U.S. sanctions that have been punishing the OPEC nation for years.

"We have agreed to work on an agenda going forward, issues of interest," Maduro said. "It seemed to me very important to be able, face to face, discuss issues of maximum interest to Venezuela and



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro speaks during a ceremony marking the start of the judicial year at the Supreme Court in Caracas, Venezuela, Jan. 27, 2022.

Associated Press

the world. And I ratify, as I said to the delegation, all our will to advance in an agenda of well-being and peace through diplomacy, respect and the highest hope for a better world."

The discussions come a little more than three years after the U.S. broke off relations with Maduro and recognized opposition

leader Juan Guaidó as the country's legitimate leader. They came together after months of quiet backchannel talks by intermediaries American lobbyists, Norwegian diplomats and international oil executives who have been pushing for U.S. President Joe Biden to revisit the so-far-unsuccessful "maximum pressure" cam-

paign to unseat Maduro that he inherited from the Trump administration.

But the impetus for a risky outreach to Maduro who has been sanctioned and is indicted in New York on drug trafficking charges took on added urgency following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and ensuing U.S. sanctions there, which

promises to reshuffle global alliances and add to rising gas prices driving inflation already at a four-decade high. Powerful Democrats and Republicans alike on Capitol Hill last week began voicing support for a U.S. ban on Russian oil and natural gas imports as the next step to punish Russia President Vladimir Putin for the invasion.

Venezuela is Putin's top ally in Latin America and a top oil exporter. Its reentry into U.S. energy markets could mitigate the fallout at the pump from a possible oil embargo on Russia. But the discussions in Caracas were quickly condemned by top Democrat and Republican senators.

U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Biden's efforts to unite the world against Putin "should not be undercut by propping up" Maduro, whose government is under investigation by the International Criminal Court for possible crimes against humanity committed against protesters in 2017. □

**THE BEST  
POKE BOWLS, SUSHI AND BAOS  
FOR EVERYONE!**

**PO-KÉ  
ONO**

**DAILY SPECIALS**

#### AZURE BEACH RESIDENCES

■ Open from Monday to Saturday for Breakfast,  
Lunch & Dinner  
● 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM / 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
☎ +297 5253610

#### RENAISSANCE MARKETPLACE

■ Open from Monday to Saturday for  
Lunch & Dinner  
● 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM / 5:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
☎ +297 2800774

**Sunset Grille**  
PRIME STEAKHOUSE

★★★★★

**OPEN 5:30PM - 10:30PM**  
Reservations: +297 526 6612 | [hiltonconciierge@depalmtours.com](mailto:hiltonconciierge@depalmtours.com)

Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino  
J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 81, Palm Beach, Aruba | [hiltonaruba.com](http://hiltonaruba.com) | [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HiltonAruba) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/HiltonAruba) [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/HiltonAruba) @HiltonAruba



**Fit2fly COVID-19**  
Testing Center  
**NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!**

**NAAT (Abott ID):**  
**Result in 30 minutes!**  
**PCR / Antigen Test**  
**SAME DAY RESULT!**

**LABORATORIO DI SERVIZIO** **MedCare Clinic**  
URGENT CARE  
**Tel: (+297) 280-0630**  
info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: **The Cove Mall (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM)** **Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)**



*Article by Etnia Nativa*

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!  
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



## Aruba's ecosystem diversity

**Episode CXLIV -144**

Every week we share the most interesting and insightful articles about Aruba as your destination to explore and conserve. Discover amazing and informative stories to enrich your knowledge and experience. There is so much to admire on this tiny island such as the variety of the diverse habitats that still exists and its differences between them.

We know that the diversity of insular ecosystems speaks of the unique variations in ecosystems within an enclosed geographical location, here where the impact of human activities on small environments as Aruba is much greater. We must acknowledge that despite its small surface, the island mothers its own species and varieties from different habitats.

Native vegetation refers to any naturally occurring local plant species which are indigenous to the area do not occur nowhere else and considered endangered or has a protective status.

Aruba's flora provides this unique opportunity to the landscapes to flourish, providing habitat for an array of native animals, create wildlife corridors, provide protection from wind and water erosion by holding the soil together after a rain shower and reduces the greenhouse effect and the quality of life.

Our island has three basic geological formations. One is a hilly part, second an undulating part and a third part consisting of limestone which embraces these two zones forming also the coast line. Some coastal areas have one or more sets of dunes running parallel to the shoreline directly inland from the beach. Most of these areas are protected by law which prohibits motor vehicles to ride on them, like those at California, behind the



Lighthouse, Wariruri, Daimari, dos Playa and the Grapefield area .

The dunes are well drained, often dry, composed mainly of calcium carbonate from eroded seashells and corals. Decomposing sea algae, brought in by stormy weather, adds nutrients to allow pioneer species colonisation. Flora specially adapted to the dry, hot and arid conditions adding soil mobility of loose sandy substrate, constant wind, low nutrients and the salinity. Hence to the extreme conditions very few species survive. Therefore coastal grass species, shrubs and trees which value should not be underestimated. Our dunes are important in protecting the island against potential ravages by stormy waves from out the sea.

Other green habitat area of Aruba are our mangroves sites. Mangroves covers some patches on the leeward side

of the island and the opposite cay's of the lagoon almost completely from South-East to North-West. According to experts, mangroves capture and store 34 million tons of carbon globally. Mangrove forests provide many of the resources upon which coastal people depend. □

### About Etnia Nativa

Our goal is to raise cultural awareness, promote education and safeguard our heritage as the sacred mother seed guiding you to be the next guardian of the island. If you love Aruba its origins and its cultural heritage, be part of the exclusive visitors of this cozy home-atelier called "Etnia Nativa". This private residential houses collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facilities themselves are the result of the transformation of recycled materials. Meet this acclaimed columnist, artist and native cultural expert at home! Book your visit Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@gmail.com





WIN \$10 UP TO \$1,000 IN FREE SLOT PLAY THE DAY YOU JOIN THE CLUB!

**WILDER**  
*Wednesday*

— WIN A SHARE OF UP TO —

**\$1,000 in  
Free Slot Play**

Every Wednesday | 10am to Midnight

Earn 25 points and swipe at any kiosk to play.  
Win \$20 to \$100 in Free Slot Play.  
Play up to five times each Wednesday.**Alhambra**  
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.**THE SHOPS  
AT ALHAMBRA CASINO**Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets,  
Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Fusion Piano &amp; Wine Bar

Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café

The Brownstone Ribs &amp; Seafood

Coming Soon: Auntie Anne's Pretzels

**BirdsCaribbean Landbird  
Monitoring Workshop**

The Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) recently supported the attendance of representatives from the Protected Area Management Organizations of Aruba (Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba), Bonaire (STINAPA), Saba (Saba Conservation Foundation) and Sint Maarten (the Nature Foundation) to a five-day BirdsCaribbean Landbird Monitoring Workshop in Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic where participants were trained in increasing the capability to monitor landbirds in the wider-Caribbean Region.

Monitoring the health of landbird populations is vitally important to understand changes in population sizes and distributions of species in response to environmental changes and threats, such as from climate change, pollution, invasive species, development, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, and more. Through the monitoring of the health of landbird populations in the Dutch Caribbean, conservation managers will be better able to tell how these species, and the nature areas in which they live, are doing. The data they gather will help decision-makers to plan conservation and management actions to ensure the Dutch Caribbean's amazing birds will be around for our children and grandchildren to see and enjoy.

We are grateful to Birds Caribbean for organizing this Training of Trainers workshop. With the skills learned during this workshop we will be able to increase the way we protect our nature areas on land which are some of the most threatened spaces on our islands," commented Tadzio Bervoets, Director of the DCNA.

The participation of qualified local conservationists to the workshop was made possible through the support of the US Fish and Wildlife Service Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Fund, Environment and Climate Change Canada, US Forest Service International Programs, Optics for the Tropics, and the DCNA. □

**Dog Control Center (CCC) 2020 - 2021 data**

ORANJESTAD - The Dog Control Center has presented its numbers for 2020 and 2021 and has elaborated on its successes and existing challenges.

In July 2020, the Dog Control Center was inaugurated as a management and temporary drop off-center as indicated in the Dog Law.

The Dog Center also helps control the dog population. People with unwanted dogs and stray dogs can drop them off at the center. The CCC also provides general information about dogs care, including preventing unwanted reproductions.

During the second half of 2020, 221 dogs were brought to the CCC, of which 117 (53%) were adopted and 104 (47%) euthanized. The CCC published this data at the beginning of 2021.

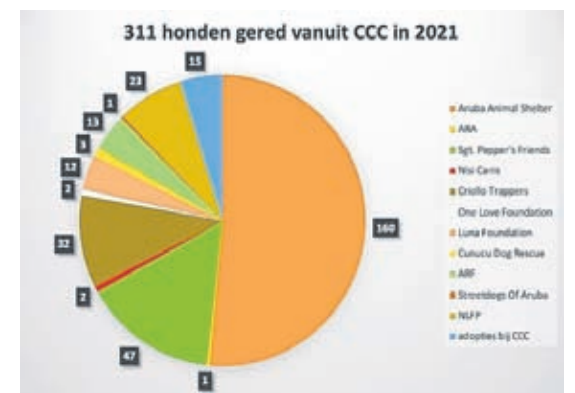
In 2021, 562 dogs were brought to the CCC. Their owners recovered 12 (2%), 331 (59%) were adopted and 39% euthanized. Although the CCC is primarily for dogs, people still drop off unwanted cats. In 2021, 549 cats were brought to the CCC, and only 25 cats have been re-homed.

The reality is that the amount of cats and dogs left behind at the CCC is low compared to the number of unwanted pets dropped off before the CCC management. Thousands of unwanted pets were left at the "kill cage", before the center was opened. Before the CCC, the percentage of unwanted animals was about 98%; the Government of Aruba is very pleased with the positive results since the inauguration of the CCC. It means a lot to the community and the animals.

It is also essential to state that so many dogs and cats are now getting a second chance in life. This was not possible without the collaboration of multiple foundations. Only 5% of adopted dogs went to a new home not affiliated with any foundation. Thus, 95% of dogs and 100% of cats have been taken over by foundations that already have new homes or will find new homes for these pets.

This graphic illustrates the numbers between the foundations in 2021.

Graph Dog Control Center 2021 - 331 dogs



rescued from CCC in 2021

Hence, we can conclude that the existence and added value of the CCC, as well as the great job and cooperation between the foundations, can be considered successful. In addition to the successes, we must also illustrate and identify the challenges. The challenges are:

A low adoption rate;

A lack of knowledge and compliance with the Dog Law;

A considerable number of pet owners that are not assuming their responsibility and lack education about this matter;

A disconnection between stakeholders due to different visions for a solution to the problem. In short: there is a difference in opinion about the Trap-Neuter and Release (TNR) and a concept that keeps the existing law in mind while dealing with the issue of stray dogs in Aruba;

The considerable number of abandoned pets, including those abandoned at the CCC after opening hours;

A low grade of non-sterilized or micro-chipped pets.

The 'National Plan for Stray Animals' is an integral plan that addresses these challenges.

The Government of Aruba and the foundations need to focus on common grounds and possible solutions. The key factors are cooperation, promotion of adoption and sterilization of both cats and dogs, as well as the positive attitude of the community. For more information and the latest news, please visit and follow @CentrodiControl-diCacho and @stimamimascota on Facebook. The CCC is open from Monday to Friday from 8:00 am - 11:30 am. □



# More than \$150,000 in prizes The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba launched its amazing campaign: Mega Win Luxury Vacations!



**THE RITZ-CARLTON**

ARUBA

**PALM BEACH** — The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba launched its amazing campaign: Mega Win Luxury Vacations! This campaign started on February 1st and will go on till April 30th, 2022, where they will raffle dream vacations to the newest hotels in the Caribbean: The Ritz-Carlton, Turks and Caicos and The St. Regis Bermuda Resort. They will also raffle dream vacations to The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba and more prizes amongst their visitors.

All members of The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba can participate in this campaign till April 30th. There will be still 2 drawing dates: March 26th and April 30th. A total of 10 finalists will be selected on each drawing date and will qualify through the raffle tickets in the raffle box and through the MVP (Most Valuable Player) promotion. To participate is very easy: you need to be a member of The Casino VIP Club. For every 80 points you accumulate on slot play and every \$40 dollars in Theoretical Win on table play you will receive one ticket. In addition you have the option to receive one free raffle ticket to participate by visiting one of our Restaurants at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba.

With every dinner purchase at Casa Nonna New York and BLT Steak, you will receive a vouch-



er to participate. Simply present the restaurant voucher together with the dinner receipt at the Casino VIP Desk on the same night to redeem your raffle ticket.

**The prizes for this promotion will be as follows:**

- 3 x vacations for two persons to The Ritz-Carlton, Turks and Caicos

- 3 x vacations for two persons to The St. Regis Bermuda Resort
- 3 x vacations for two persons to The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba
- 21 x slot credit prizes for a total of \$52,500

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba keeps innovating by bringing exciting campaigns

for their visitors who are always surprised and excited to participate. Additionally, The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba offers a thoughtfully-tiered player reward program called 'Elevate', featuring exclusive benefits and events for members. Members can earn points for both slot machines and table games and receive cash redemption from slot machine points, while accumulated table comps can be redeemed towards enjoying the hotel's celebrated amenities, including complimentary rooms nights, dining, and spa.

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba is known as the island's luxury casino where guests enjoy exceptional personalized service, a great selection of table games and state-of-the-art slot machines for a casino experience like no other.

**For more information about the Mega Win Luxury Vacations Campaign, the Elevate Tier Program and other promotions, visit us at:**

The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba VIP Desk or call us at 527-2276/ 527-2277 and we will be delighted to assist you. ☐





## How to put your tax refund to work for you



A box filled with dollar bills is shown in New York, Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

Associated Press

By **KIMBERLY PALMER**  
of NerdWallet

If you're eagerly anticipating a tax refund in the coming weeks, you have good reason to be optimistic: The IRS reports that about 77% of tax returns filed last year generated a refund, and the average refund was \$2,815.

Even though what can feel like a gift from the government is actually a delayed receipt of your own money, the best use of those funds is not always apparent. This year the question is even more fraught, with many households facing increasing financial pressure from inflation, rising interest rates and expiring government assistance programs tied to the pandemic. Advance child tax credits, for example, which offered families monthly checks based on their income and number of dependents, have ended pending further congressional action.

"For many people, the advance child tax credits became a part of their budget, so you should consider saving your tax refund and using it to supplement your monthly budget going forward," says Tommy Blackburn, a certified financial

planner in Newport News, Virginia. "That can help with monthly cash flow," he adds. Another option is to adjust your withholding to every paycheck so you don't pay more tax than you need to. But, Blackburn adds, some people prefer to receive a lump sum each year as a method of forced savings.

While your refund priorities depend on your particular situation, there's room in almost every budget to spend at least some portion of your refund check on something fun, too. Here is a road map to help you decide what you should do with the money:

### **SAVE FOR THE NEXT EMERGENCY**

"First, think about your near-term security," suggests Vince Shorb, CEO of the Las Vegas-based National Financial Educators Council, which supports financial wellness educators. "There are a lot of things going on, from COVID to inflation. I want to make sure people have food on the table and gas to get to work," in the event of an emergency like job loss or unexpected expense, he says. That means put-

ting money into an emergency savings fund before any other priority, including paying off debt.

"With inflation, you want to save a little bit more than normal to plan for those crazy gas and food prices. We don't know what will happen next," says Scott Alan Turner, a CFP in Aledo, Texas. While financial experts often cite the goal of having three to six months of expenses tucked away, a more realistic goal can be saving \$500 to \$1,000, or at least half of your refund. Given rising prices, Turner says it's better to save more if you can. "If your industry is shrinking, you'll need a larger emergency fund," Shorb says, because it could take longer to find a new job if you lost your current one.

### **UNLOAD HIGH-INTEREST DEBT**

With interest rates widely expected to rise this year, credit card and other variable-rate debt would likely become more expensive, which makes using refund money to pay it off a smart move, says Mike Biggica, a CFP in San Francisco. He suggests paying off any debt that carries an interest rate of 6% or higher and

also focusing on student loans, medical debt and anything else that carries a variable rate.

Maggie Klockenga, a financial coach and CFP in Morton, Illinois, suggests using an online debt calculator to see how making extra debt payments can speed up the debt payoff process. That can help you decide whether to first pay off your smallest debts or larger, high-interest ones. "You can see how quickly you can have everything paid off," she says.

### **MAKE ROOM FOR OTHER GOALS, TOO**

If you already have your emergency fund and high-interest rate debt addressed, then Klockenga suggests putting the refund cash in high-yield online savings accounts dedicated to different goals, such as a vacation to Cabo or retirement. "When it's not in your checking account, it's harder to get to and gives you a pause before you can get the money," she says.

Increasing your contributions to existing retirement accounts such as a 401(k) is another solid option, Biggica says. "For folks who

are not already maxing out their 401(k), that increase in contribution makes them feel more secure and responsible." In some cases, you can front-load your contributions, Biggica adds, which means you reach the annual contribution limit before the end of the year. As a result, your take-home pay will be higher by November or December, which offers flexibility to pay for end-of-year costs like holiday spending.

### **SPLURGE WITHIN LIMITS**

After taking care of emergency savings and debt payments, there might not be enough left from the refund to make a huge purchase like a car, but Turner suggests squeezing in something enjoyable. "Go out and celebrate with something frivolous and entertaining: a nice steak dinner, new designer jeans, concert tickets," he suggests. His guideline: Plan to spend about 10% on fun. For the average refund recipient based on last year's IRS numbers, that's about \$280.

It probably won't fund a vacation, but it could significantly glow-up your week-end plans. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Realized

1 Checkout act  
41 Crew need

5 Frau's spouse

9 Mistake

11 Mideast peninsula

12 Mission man

13 Reversed

14 Had dinner

15 Purpose of some machines

17 Bank business

19 Neckline shape

20 Motionless

21 Wine choice

22 Grab

24 Snapshot

26 Looks upon

29 Sermon subject

30 Showing flexibility

32 Looking after

34 Zero

35 Isolated

36 Wed in haste

38 Assesses

39 Zellweger of "Chicago"

## DOWN

1 Rose part

2 Packing boxes

3 Fiery

4 Neither follower

5 Hart's mate

6 Salad green

7 Came down

8 Corduroy feature

10 Abuse verbally

11 Warbled

16 Pep up



Yesterday's answer

18 Brake type  
28 Skilled shooter

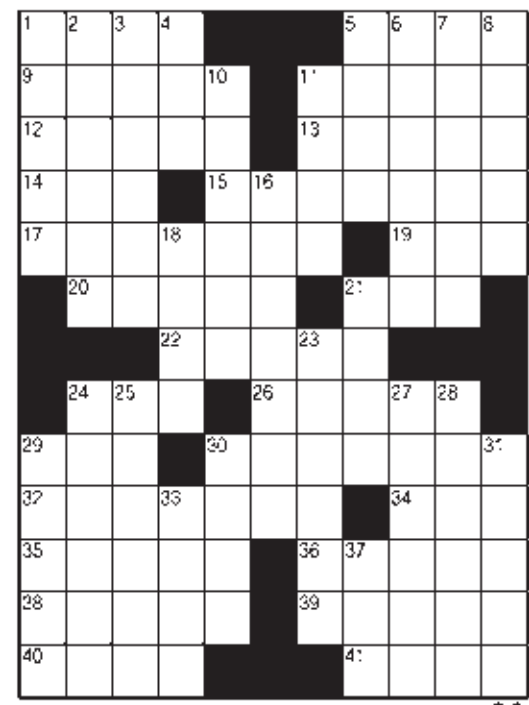
21 Marsh plant  
29 Un-adorned

23 Snappy retort  
30 Comic's stock

24 Baking need  
31 Chorus songs

25 Deep-seated  
33 Sketched

27 Ryder of "Beetle-juice"  
37 Summer sign



AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

K U K J P D Q D E J U T Q J M D

F T U U D D K Y M Z I D E T

K Y D E J K U K Z L V D B D Q R T E Z V K J W

P M Z J R T D I D Q — Y Z I K Y

V D I I D Q A Z E

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, "WHOM" IS A WORD THAT WAS INVENTED TO MAKE EVERYONE SOUND LIKE A BUTLER. — CALVIN TRILLIN

# Octopus ancestors lived before era of dinosaurs, study shows

By CHRISTINA LARSON  
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists have found the oldest known ancestor of octopuses — an approximately 330 million-year-old fossil unearthed in Montana. The researchers concluded the ancient creature lived millions of years earlier than previously believed, meaning that octopuses originated before the era of dinosaurs.

The 4.7-inch (12-centimeter) fossil has 10 limbs — modern octopuses have eight — each with two rows of suckers. It probably lived in a shallow, tropical ocean bay.

"It's very rare to find soft tissue fossils, except in a few places," said Mike Vecchione, a Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History zoologist who was not involved in the study. "This is a very exciting finding. It pushes back the ancestry much farther than previously known."

The specimen was discovered in Montana's Bear Gulch limestone formation and donated to the Royal Ontario Museum in Canada in 1988. For decades, the fossil sat overlooked in a drawer while scientists studied fossil sharks and other finds from the site. But then paleontologists noticed the 10 tiny limbs encased in limestone. The well-preserved fossil also "shows some evidence of

an ink sac," probably used to squirt out a dark liquid cloak to help to evade predators, just like modern octopuses, said Christopher Whalen, an American Museum of Natural History paleontologist and co-author of the study published Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications. The creature, a vampyropod, was likely the ancestor of both modern octopuses and vampire squid, a confusingly named marine critter that's much closer to an octopus than a squid. Previously, the "oldest known definitive" vampyropod was from around 240 million years ago, the authors said. Whether or not having an ancient octopus — or vampire squid — bearing your name is actually a compliment, the scientists say they intended admiration for the president's science and research priorities.

## Classifieds

**Condo for sale**  
**Pearl Aruba condos**  
2 BR 2 bath  
Pool/view  
Price : \$ 369 K  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

**Condo For sale**  
**Le Vent**  
Eagle Beach  
2 BR , 2 Bath \$650 K  
3 BR , 3 bath \$870 K  
Both condo ground floor  
2 BR , 2 bath  
5th floor \$ 990 K  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

**Condo for sale**  
**Tierra del sol**  
3 BR 2 1/2 bath  
Ocean view with garage  
Price :\$475 K  
Call:011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

**House For sale**  
**Ruby wespunt**  
4 Bedroom 4 bath  
Maind room and apartment  
With pool  
Price :\$420 K  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com



**Marriott Aruba Surf Club**  
**PLATINUM SEASON**  
2 Bed Oceanfront \$25,000  
2 Bed Oceanside \$18,500  
2 Bed Ocean view \$17,500  
2 Bed Garden view \$15,500  
3 Bed Ocean view \$28,000  
WK 51 Garden view \$42,500  
WK 52 Oceanside \$55,000  
WK 7 and 14 - all views  
**GOLD SEASON**  
2 Bed Oceanfront \$14,000  
2 Bed Oceanside \$11,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$8,000  
2 Bed Garden view \$6,000  
3 Bed Ocean view \$13,000

**Marriott Aruba Ocean Club**  
**PLATINUM SEASON**  
2 Bed Oceanfront \$31,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$18,500  
1 Bed ocean front \$17,500  
1 Bed ocean View \$12,000  
**GOLD SEASON**  
2 Bed Oceanfront \$14,000  
2 Bed Ocean view \$9,500  
1 Bed oceanfront \$9,000  
1 Bed ocean View \$6,500

\*\* Destination Points \$8.00 per point

**La Cabana Beach Resort**  
1 Bed wk 51 \$6,500

**Divi Aruba Phoenix**  
1 bed wk 20 unit 633 \$11,000  
2 bed wk 11 unit 101 ground floor  
expires 2037 \$16,500  
Other weeks are also available.

**We are the #1**  
**Rental Timeshare**  
**agent for Aruba!**

We also RENT Aruba weeks for owners, Contact us to BUY, SELL or RENT any timeshare property.

**Contact:**  
michelle@conciergerealty.com  
**888-888-2204 Ext 104**  
**Website:**  
www.conciergerealty.com  
**Broker: Michelle Donato**  
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaSurf/  
www.facebook.com/groups/MarriottArubaOcean

**Honey Dolls**  
MASSAGE AND ESCORT SERVICE  
**Beautiful Latin Girls**  
Pick-up & Delivery  
Serving Men - Couple - Women - All Genders  
24/7  
**+297 565-9535**  
WWW.PLEASUREINARUBA.COM



# Classifieds

## HTTA

### All Time Share Owners

Want to sell your Time Share ?  
Call the local experts !  
37 years doing honest business  
Call : 011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## HTTA

We are looking to purchase  
For our costumer Marriott Surf  
And Ocean Club Platinum  
weeks  
All views and size  
Call:011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## HTTA

### La Quinta Beach Resort

Eagle Beach  
2 Bedroom 2 Bath Townhouse  
ocean view 2 sd floor  
Week # 9 room #212  
Price : \$12 K  
Call:011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## HTTA

### Divi Village

Eagle Beach  
Studio week 13 room # 6206  
Studio week 14 room # 6205  
20 weeks remain each  
Price :\$7 K each  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## Dutch Village

### Eagle Beach

Studio week 12 room #33  
30 weeks remain  
Price : \$9 K  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## HTTA

### Casa Del Mar

Eagle Beach  
2 Bedroom 2 bath \$17K each  
Wk 9/10 room # 1302  
1 BR wk 9/10 room #1329  
Price :9 K each  
Call:011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## HTTA

### Aruba Divi Phoenix

Palm beach  
1 BR wk 8,9,10  
Room # 931\$20 K each  
Studio wk 8/9  
room #932\$15 K each  
32 weeks remain each  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## HTTA

### Divi Village

Eagle beach  
1 BR floating weeks  
Platinum F - building  
14 weeks remain  
Price :\$6 K  
Call:011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## HTTA

### Divi Village

Eagle Beach  
2 Bedroom , 2 bath  
Beach view  
Week # 13 room # 3512  
26 weeks remain all acclerated  
expire 2036  
Price :\$10 K  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## HTTA

### Renaissance Ocean Suites

Private Islands  
1 BR wk # 14 room # 2336  
1 BR wk #14 room # 2521  
1 BR wk #14 room # 2541  
1 BR wk #15 room # 2111  
Price : \$7 K each  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## Condo for sale

### Azure Beach residences

Eagle Beach  
3 BR , 3 bath  
Pool / view  
Price :\$1,050,000  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## Condo for sale

### Acqua condominium Aruba

Palm Beach  
2 Bedroom , 2 bath  
Ocean view  
Price :\$ 835 K  
Call:011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## Condo for sale

### Blue residences

Eagle beach  
2 BR 2 bath  
Beach view  
Price : \$ 699 K  
Call:011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## Condo for sale

### Acqua condominium Aruba

Palm beach  
2 BR 2 bath  
Pool view  
Price : \$ 650 K  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## Condo for sale

### Jardinas del Mar

Eagle Beach  
3 BR , 3 bath  
Garden view  
Price : \$ 575 K  
Call:011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## Condo for sale

### Harbour House

Renaissance  
2 BR , 2 Bath  
harbour view  
Price :\$ 460 K  
Call :011-297-630-1307  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

## For Sale by Owner

### Caribbean Palm Village Resort

Wk 50-2BR/28th, \$1,900  
Wks 51&52-2BR/28th, \$2,900  
Wks 51&52/1BR/2Bth, \$1,900  
Wk 52-1BR/2Bth, \$2,500  
Wk 11-2BR/2Bth, \$1,900  
Wk 12-1 BR/2Bth, \$1,200  
Wk 13-2 BR/2Bth, \$1,300  
Contact:  
sales.aruba@hotmail.com

215060

## For Sale by Owner

### Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino

Weeks 2,3,4  
Three Bedroom Suite  
Unit #3508  
\$14,950.00 per wk  
Contact  
sales.aruba@hotmail.com

215098

## Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 2/1113 (17k);  
Week 5/1315 (19k);  
Week 8/1113 (18k);  
Week 8/1409 (18k);  
Week 9/1218 (16k);  
Week 10/1207 (16k);  
Week 13/1509 (13k);  
Week 14/1308 (13k);  
Week 15/1217 (10k).

CDMOwner@gmail.com

U.S. Cell: (860)992-3890

214832



## Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

## Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

## Editors

Pilar Flores

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Richard Brooks

## Sales

Liza Koolman

Sulaika Croes

## Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

## Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

## Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

## Columnists

Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22

T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday



## HEALTH

## DOCTOR ON DUTY

### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel.524 8833

## PHARMACY ON DUTY

### Oranjestad:

Botica Eagle Tel. 587 9011

### San Nicolas:

San Nicolas Tel. 584 5712

## OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

## EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

## TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

## TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

## AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired  
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

## General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



215210





# Dylan McDermott reinvents modern gangster on 'Law & Order'

By JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The DNA for Dylan McDermott to reinvent the modern-day gangster began at childhood and carried through to his struggling young actor days, when the "Law and Order: Organized Crime" star says he was "surrounded by the ilk" of unsavory types.

McDermott, who grew up in New York, waited tables and tended bar, often serving local mobsters, where he observed their capricious behavior, he says. And when he was younger, he had an even closer relationship.

"My mother's boyfriend was a bank robber when I was growing up," McDermott told The Associated Press.

"They all end up either dead or in prison. So, there's no good stories there. He got his end, and it was not — not good."

(His parents split when the actor was a child, and his mother, Diane McDermott, died in what was ruled an accidental shooting in 1967. In 2012, a reopened Waterbury, Connecticut, police investigation concluded that she was killed by her now-dead gangster boyfriend.)

This convergence of real-



This image released by NBC shows Dylan McDermott as Richard Wheatley, in a scene from "Law & Order: Organized Crime."

Associated Press

life experiences helped Dylan McDermott bring Richard Wheatley to life, with a multi-episode arc on "Law & Order: Organized Crime" that wrapped recently.

"I was privy to a world that probably most actors would not be. And I always absorbed that, and I always took it in. And I hope one day to be able to use that, all that information in my own life and put it into a character. And then Richard Wheatley presented himself," McDermott said.

Deadly, smart, and "woke," the Wheatley character defied the uncouth, knuckle-dragging demeanor so often seen in this type of role. Wheatley, the CEO of an online pharmaceutical company, the son of a New York mobster, and a father with close ties to his children, had more of the depth of a Bond villain than a New York gangster.

With danger and modernity, Wheatley adds another dimension that breaks away from the stereotype, potentially redefining the

"bad guy" character in the future.

That's not lost on Nick Creegan, who plays the character's son, Richard Wheatley Jr. The young actor says he was constantly surprised by the actions of his on-screen dad, adding, "it was pretty much as twisted as you would think it would be."

"The fact that you just didn't know what he was thinking kept you on your toes," Creegan said.

The format of the NBC show also played a big

part. Many storylines from the "Law & Order" franchise are one and done. Some villains may have a multiple-episode arc, but McDermott was blessed with eight episodes to tell his story. And that quickly turned to 16 after executive producer Dick Wolf found it necessary to continue the Wheatley storyline.

His nemesis on the series, police detective Elliot Stabler, who was last seen on "Law & Order: SVU" is played by Christopher Meloni, a franchise fan favorite.

Meloni applauded the choices made by his scene partner. At a recent event celebrating the upcoming return of the original "Law & Order," Meloni agreed that McDermott has reinvented the modern-day gangster by "avoiding a minefield of cliché."

"He didn't fall into the traps an actor could have tripped on. He is the villain for the 21st century," Meloni said.

Even McDermott admits being surprised by some of the stuff he was allowed to get away with on the show. "I did things that I thought would rub against the network," he said. His smoking, rarely seen on network television, for example, was not met with resistance. □



Seattle Mariners gather as the MLB logo is shown during a review of an attempted catch by right fielder Mitch Haniger of a ball hit by Tampa Bay Rays' Ji-Man Choi that was originally called an out during the ninth inning of a baseball game Friday, June 18, 2021, in Seattle.

Associated Press

**CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)** — Apple will enter the live sports coverage arena with "Friday Night Base-

ball."

Apple and Major League Baseball announced Tuesday that Apple TV+ will car-

## Apple, MLB announce 'Friday Night Baseball' package

ry a weekly doubleheader on Friday nights in eight countries when the regular season begins. Games will initially be available without the need for an Apple TV+ subscription.

MLB has been under a work stoppage since owners locked out players at the end of the collective bargaining agreement. At 97 days, it is the second-longest work stoppage in baseball history.

The broadcasts on Apple TV+ will include pregame and postgame shows and will not be subject to local broadcast blackout re-

strictions.

Besides being shown in the United States, Canada and Mexico, games will also initially be available in Australia, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, and the United Kingdom.

The agreement also includes the "MLB Big Inning" weekday show for fans in the US as well as a livestream channel for those watching in the US and Canada.

MLB has been exploring selling a weeknight package of games with ESPN reducing its coverage of the regular season to 30

games, mostly on Sunday nights. Turner Sports will have games on Tuesday nights under a new rights deal that begins this season.

Apple and MLB have been closely aligned for years. MLB At Bat was one of the first apps to go live on the Apple app store in 2008. The deal also comes as Apple is looking to expand to other leagues. The company has been pursuing streaming of NFL games when the league's "Sunday Ticket" expires at the end of the upcoming season. □



# 1 betting rule remains sacrosanct in the NFL

By **TIM DAHLBERG**  
**AP Sports Columnist**

Calvin Ridley had no inside information and, apparently, no idea how to bet. In other words, he was just like millions of other neophyte bettors lured in by promises of riches from sports betting operators and the leagues they cohabitate with. Except Ridley plays for the Atlanta Falcons. And that's where things get a little dicier.

Almost everything goes these days in the Wild West of sports betting, but there is still one big no-no that remains sacrosanct: You don't bet on your own league and you certainly don't bet on your own team.

Ridley did both, and it cost him one of the worst bad beats ever. Suspended Monday for at least a year by hypocrite-in-chief Roger Goodell, the wide receiver is out \$11 million in salary for what he said was \$1,500 in bets made while he was on mental health leave from the team.

The bets were relatively paltry, and the crime didn't seem much worse. Ridley wasn't even around his team at the time he made the bets — which according to various reports were long shot parlays of as many as eight teams — and he certainly wasn't trying to fix any games.

This wasn't 1963, when



Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Calvin Ridley (18) makes a diving touchdown reception in front of Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive back Ross Cockrell (43) during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

Green Bay halfback Paul Hornung and Detroit Lions defensive tackle Alex Karras were suspended indefinitely for betting on NFL games and associating with "known hoodlums." Ridley made the bets on a phone in Florida where it was legal through a casino that sponsors Miami's stadium.

Like most aspiring bettors, he just wanted a little action.

"I know I was wrong," Ridley tweeted after his suspension was announced. "But I'm getting 1 year lol." One year does seem a bit

excessive, especially in an age when the NFL and its teams not only tolerate betting but encourage it — at least among the general population. A Sunday didn't go by last season without constant reminders on TV about betting partners and sponsorships as the league and the industry settled into a profitable partnership neither saw coming just a few years earlier.

At nearly every commercial break we listened to an assortment of characters from Julius Caesar to the Manning family telling us

to sign up and bet, something duly noted by former coach and TV analyst Tony Dungy.

"When we as a league encourage everyone to bet on our games, advertise betting on our players' game stats, take in big money from gambling sites & do everything we can to get our young people to embrace gambling — We can't be surprised when this happens," Dungy tweeted after the suspension was announced.

If it seems a bit awkward, it is. The morality police who once railed about the evils

of gambling are now profiting by the new craze.

Indeed, Ridley actually may have done Goodell a favor by allowing him to make a tough stand against player betting while at the same time not interfering with the flow of money from the betting sites to the NFL coffers. Here's a short version of the new rules of order if you're still confused: Betting is good. Betting by players is bad.

"There is nothing more fundamental to the NFL's success — and to the reputation of everyone associated with our league — than upholding the integrity of the game," Goodell said. Hopefully, Goodell keeps that lofty premise in mind as the league investigates allegations made by former Dolphins coach Brian Flores that Miami owner Stephen Ross offered him \$100,000 a loss a few years back so the team would tank enough to get the top pick in the draft.

Ross denies the allegations made in a lawsuit against the league and no one else has come forward publicly to substantiate them. But game fixing goes to the core of sports betting fears, and if Ridley can be suspended for a year for his long shot parlay bets, Ross should be booted from the league if enough evidence emerges to back the claims. □

## NFL salary cap for 2022 increases by nearly \$26M to \$208.2M

By **BARRY WILNER**  
**AP Pro Football Writer**

The NFL's salary cap for 2022 will be \$208.2 million, a healthy increase from the previous, pandemic-impacted years.

The cap is going up from \$182.5 million, which was down by nearly \$10 million from the 2020 season.

Adding in benefits attached to the cap, teams will be allowed to have a total player cost of \$284.367 million.

Quarterbacks, of course, will have the highest fran-

chise tag hit at \$29.7 million. The 32 teams have until 4 p.m. Tuesday to apply franchise tags, and some clubs already have done so. The deadline for franchise-tagged players to reach a long-term contract with a team is July 15. Free agency officially begins Wednesday, March 16, though teams can negotiate with player representatives beginning Monday. Most big deals get done in the two days before the league year officially starts.

The second-highest tag price is for linebacker at \$18.7 million, followed closely by wide receivers (\$18.4 million), and defensive ends (\$17.85 million). Then come defensive tackles (\$17.39 million), cornerbacks (\$17.28 million), offensive linemen (\$16.66 million), safeties (\$12.91 million), tight ends (\$10.93 million), running backs (\$9.57 million) and kickers (\$5.22 million).

Players who have been given franchise tags thus far are Kansas City tackle



Dallas Cowboys tight end Dalton Schultz (86) celebrates after catching a touchdown pass against the New York Giants during the third quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Associated Press

Orlando Brown Jr., Cincinnati safety Jessie Bates III, Miami tight end Mike Ge-

sicki, Dallas tight end Dalton Schultz and Cleveland tight end David Njoku. □



# On course and in Hall of Fame, Tiger overshadows all

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

**(AP)** — Tiger Woods is going into the World Golf Hall of Fame with three others who no doubt will be overshadowed in the presence of a player who transcended the sport like no other.

Perhaps that's only fitting.

It was like that every time Woods teed it up, from his "Hello, world" debut in Milwaukee in 1996 through his 15 majors and 82 titles on the PGA Tour. Win or not, Woods was playing and it seemed everyone else was along for the ride.

Ernie Els might have summed it up as well as anyone in early 2000. They matched eagles on the 72nd hole at Kapalua and birdies in the playoff. Woods beat him on the second extra hole with a 40-foot putt for his 18th win worldwide and fifth in a row on the PGA Tour.

Except for his age — 24 — Woods already had met current Hall of Fame requirements by then.

"He's probably going to be bigger than Elvis when he gets into his 40s," Els said that day.

Now he is 46, and Woods certainly will be the star attraction when he is inducted Wednesday night, even if it takes place in front of his smallest gallery — no more than 500 are expected for the ceremony at the PGA Tour's new headquarters.

Making the night even more special is his 14-year-old daughter, Sam, will be introducing him.

Along for the ride are three-time U.S. Women's Open champion Susie Maxwell Berning, former PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem and the late Marion Hollins, a U.S. Women's Amateur champion and the first woman to develop golf courses.

Finchem led the tour to unprecedented growth. If he was behind the wheel, then Woods was the engine. In an interview after he was elected, Finchem laughed when asked how his 22 years as commissioner would have been if Woods had played tennis



**Tiger Woods celebrates on the 18th green after winning the Tour Championship golf tournament Sunday, Sept. 23, 2018, in Atlanta.**

Associated Press

instead.

"It would have been a much more difficult job," he said. "Tiger coming on the scene ... took our sport to another level. It continues on today. As a sport, we were blessed he didn't like tennis."

All of them earned their place. All will be honored. The living members will have a night to remember, even if the attention is squarely on one person.

Just like always.

"With no disrespect to anyone else, he should almost go in on his own," Rickie Fowler said. "It should be his induction. It takes away, potentially, from the other three. Not a knock on Tiger being in the same class, but he is so much bigger. There's a lot of ways to look at it."

Padraig Harrington found one of those ways.

He recalls the time he received an honorary doctorate from St Andrews University before the 2010 British Open, an emotional night

with 1,000 in attendance in Younger Hall. Even with two claret jugs among his three majors, not many were there to see Harrington.

Also receiving honorary doctorates that year were Arnold Palmer and Tom Watson, along with South African billionaire Johann Rupert, a hugely influential figure in international golf.

"It was a big deal to get an honorary doctorate, but it actually added to mine that they were there with me," Harrington said. "Arnold did not take away from it. Johann Rupert added 100% to that occasion. The people getting in (the Hall of Fame), they'll have a better day and a better story to tell."

"Maybe they won't get the same media — or they could get more media because there will be more people covering it."

Interest, no doubt, will be high for an induction that was bound to happen.

"I don't know the criteria, but the man could have

been in the Hall of Fame 15-plus years ago," Ryder Cup captain Zach Johnson said. "It's going to be a nice celebration for a guy who has taken the game to heights that most people didn't know could happen."

Based on the criteria when Woods turned pro in 1996 — the PGA Tour ballot required 10 victories and two majors (that included The Players Championship) — he would have met the performance standards at the 1999 PGA Championship after just three years on tour.

In his next 18 starts on tour after that, he had 10 wins and two majors. Woods compiled ridiculous numbers while going through four swing coaches and twice as many surgeries.

"Tiger changed people's perception of golf from a game to a sport," Harrington said.

The shame is that more people can't attend the induction ceremony, a product of limited space at PGA

Tour headquarters (and \$1,000 a ticket for a Hall of Fame fundraiser). The future of the World Golf Village, about 25 miles away in St. Augustine, is in doubt with so little traffic.

Johnny Miller and Nick Faldo shared the stage when the World Golf Village first hosted the induction ceremony in 1998.

Over the years, no one else captured Tiger's share of attention. Bernhard Langer and Ben Crenshaw went in together in 2002, Nick Price and Annika Sorenstam a year later, Curtis Strange and Se Ri Pak in 2007. Even the year Phil Mickelson was inducted, no one entertained that night like the late Peter Alliss.

And when one player clearly stood out over the other inductees — Karrie Webb in 2005, Els in 2011 — that gap wasn't as large as it will be with Woods.

He's had the stage to himself for as long as he has played. The Hall of Fame is no different. □